

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1281 without my signature.

While I am supportive of the policy goal of this bill, which would allow more prospective jurors the opportunity to participate in their civic responsibility, this bill will add to the statutory and regulatory burdens already placed on companies seeking to do business with the State. As I stated in my veto message of a substantively similar bill in a prior year, the overarching objective of improving the jury system is one that needs to be addressed, but this proposal is not the best mechanism to achieve that goal.

In its contracting programs, the Department of General Services is charged with obtaining the best value for the taxpayer. This bill would impose an additional restriction on those contractors doing business with the State, restrict competition, and ultimately result in higher prices for goods and services. This is contrary to my Administration's goal of making California a good place to do business.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger